

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 28, 1870, with transcript

London, May 28th, 70. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

I telegraphed to you today but I write also, as you will probably have made arrangements for sending to the P.O. in the morning,. Carrie bears up well. She has so long looked forward to this certainty that the stroke is no surprise. Dear Melly was perfectly conscious of his state, and death had no terrors for him. He expressed himself as glad that he had got home to breathe his last, and we are all thankful on the same account. What would Carrie have done under the circumstances in a country lodging? Mamma is of course bitterly affected. We shall each do what we can to comfort the other. Our earthly hopes have now their beginning, middle and end in you. O, be careful, and leave no opening for that fatal disease to enter. Notwithstanding Edward's death and Melly's, consumption is not hereditary in our family on either side. There is obviously a constitutional weakness which requires care, but there is no entail of the malady. It is necessary that you should clearly understand the conditions under which you hold life and health; and avoid being depressed by our bereavements. We shall most likely have the funeral on Tuesday Afternoon. After that we shall consult about our business arrangements. Mean time write any plan that occurs to you. I am glad you have Gillies with you— the charge will be good for your mind. Give him our kindest 2 remembrances. Give our love also to Uncle and the girls. Grandma is well and sends her love to all. Mamma and your dear Sister Carrie join with me in fondest love to you. We had a very kind telegram from Uncle David, offering to come over tonight and if he could be of any service.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.